

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides an overview of the present study. It consists of the background of the study, research problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, limitation, hypothesis, and definition of key terms.

A. Background of the Study

English is an important language in international communication. Language has an important role: language allows people to express their thoughts, feelings and interact with others. English as a foreign language is difficult to learn all of skills. Each skill has own set of difficulties, and students say that speaking skill is the most difficult thing to learn.

Speaking is one of skills that can be improved with practice. Besides listening, reading, and writing, students must learn how to master in speaking. Despite the fact that speaking is very important thing, many students find it to be boring subject to master and practice. Gani, Fajrina, and Hanifa state that speaking skill is an ability to communicate orally thoughts, feelings, and facts to others. Brown (2004) describes speaking as a skill that can be directly and empirically observed as a productive skill. It is reflection of their ability whether they master this language or not. Speaking is one of the most important aspects of language learning so it helps you to express your idea to other people clearly and accurately. In other words, they are able to effectively communicating their opinions to others. In teaching speaking, most of students cannot speak English well. There are problems in teaching and learning speaking; the students are not

confidence in their ability to speak, they are scared to start a dialogue or discussion and communicate their think and opinion. The students lack of vocabulary, fluency, pronunciation, and comprehension. Brown (2001) says that speaking is taught in order to improve efficiency in communication. To avoid misunderstandings in grammar, pronunciation or vocabulary, students must comprehend. They must practice in order to communicate well in English.

Based on the problem found, the researchers recommend Small Group Discussion as a way to overcome speaking problems. It is one of the methods or ways to learn speaking skill. It helps in improving their speaking and their self-confidence. It may also be able to improve students' attitudes toward studying English and create more comfortable learning in the classroom. Students will get the opportunity to practice their English in a group with their peers and friends. It is also can improve their vocabulary, fluency, grammar and comprehension.

Small group discussion is an effective teaching method in language exercise. Learners participate on a learning activity through interaction in group work, according to Ur (2000). It is an exercise in speaking fluency. In Small group discussion context, learners have more opportunities to interact, question, and elaborate with peers than they have in a teacher-centered environment, which improves learning and comprehension.

So, based on the explanation above, the researcher investigates the effectiveness of using small group discussion to improve students' speaking skill.

B. Research Problem

Based on the background of study above, the researcher states the problem as follows: Is using Small Group Discussion effective in teaching speaking skill?

C. Objective of the Study

Based on the research problem above, the objectives of the study are to investigate the effectiveness of using Small Group Discussion in teaching speaking skill.

D. The Hypothesis

According to Kumar (1993) hypothesis is a statement of the research assumption about the relationship between two variables that the researcher intends to evaluate within the scope of study.

Based on stated above, the hypothesis can be taken by the researcher as follows:

H1: There is significant effect of using Small Group Discussion to improve students' speaking skill.

H0: There is no significant effect of using Small Group Discussion to improve students' speaking skill.

E. Significance of the Study

The researcher will give some useful information about the effect of using small group discussion method on students' speaking skill. This research is expected to give contribution to the teachers, the students, the schools, the researcher and also the readers or the next researchers.

1. For the teacher

The researcher expects that the result of this study will support teacher in increasing their students' speaking skill. The research provides Small Group Discussion that can be used teacher in improving the students' speaking skill.

2. For the students

The researcher hopes that the students can improve their speaking skill after using Small Group Discussion method. They can speak up in front of the class and express their idea confidently.

3. For the school

This research may be able to give the contribution in teaching and learning process, especially in teaching speaking.

4. For the researcher

The researcher hopes that the result of this research can be useful for others.

5. For the next researchers

The researcher hopes that the result of this research will help the next researchers in their research and they can use this research as their guidance.

F. Scope and Limitation of the Study

Based on the identification of problem, the researcher narrows the scope of the research. The researcher wants to investigate the effectiveness of using Small Group Discussion in teaching speaking at MA Darul Hikmah.

G. Definition of The Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding and gain same perception between the researcher and the readers, it is important to be mentioned some key terms of this study. Those are defined as follows:

1. Speaking

Speaking is one of four skills taught in English class. It is the most important skill in learning foreign language and it is form of communications and productive skills.

2. Small Group Discussion

Small Group Discussion is one of teaching technique that can chance the students to more active in speaking in group. Small Group Discussion is teaching technique that consists of three until five person in each group to discuss the topic and find the solution to overcome the problem.